


Friday 3rd November 2023

School Leadership Messages	Contents				
SIMS Parents App We apologise for the ongoing issues for some parents/carers with the implementation of the app. Please use the admin@fortimere.org.uk email when reporting any problems, although we hope that from today that number should be greatly reduced.	CoHeadteachers' Message				
Fireworks Event We apologise for any inconvenience caused to our families due to the postponement of our annual fireworks event. The field was too wet for fireworks to be used safely.	Fortismind				
Attendance and Punctuality An attendance letter has been sent via parentmail to all parents in Years 7-11 today. Please do read this letter and talk to your child(ren) about their attendance and punctuality to school (and to lessons during the day). This term we will be starting to run daily late detentions for those students who arrive late to school. Students will be required to stay for 15 minutes after school each day they are late. These sessions will be led by their HOY and PSM. Being late to school has an impact on their learning and that of others. Even being 10 minutes late a day adds up to 1.5 weeks off school a year. Lateness after the morning register has closed also counts as an unauthorised absence and will therefore impact their overall attendance percentage.	Departmental & Subject News				
Top positive points this week - well done to the following students Hazel Pelling, Amber Charnley, Talya Eris, Lola Currie, Leonardo Distefano, Tamar Goldberg, Talia Greenberg, Ilgaz Guvendik, Salome Ortega, Bill Morten-Spencer, Patrick Pearce	Safeguarding information				
	Calendar				
	<table> <tr> <td>08.11</td><td>Sixth Form Open Evening</td></tr> <tr> <td>09.11</td><td>Fireworks Event</td></tr> </table>	08.11	Sixth Form Open Evening	09.11	Fireworks Event
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	 <p><i>Somewhere over the Fortismere rainbow taken earlier today</i></p>				

Co-Headteachers

Weekly Roundup

The start to this half term has been a stormy one and although we were spared the worst of Storm Ciarán, it did lead to the postponement of our annual Fireworks Event. We are usually pretty robust about weather at the top of the hill (we've quoted the Geography Department before: "no such thing as the wrong weather, only the wrong clothes") but this time it was down to the fireworks company. They told us that the field was too wet to sustain the laying of the fireworks and we couldn't see the point of rides and food without the display. We are very fortunate that all the companies that work with us could make it next Thursday and we look forward to seeing you all next week, hopefully in drier conditions! (You'll still need welly boots...).

The other storm we have been dealing with concerns the ongoing issues with the SIMs parentapp. We understand that Y10 have been disproportionately affected but the Office and Mr Barsby have been toiling away remedying the problem. Y10 parents have been contacted today and we hope we have now broken the back of parental access to SIMs. However, if you are still experiencing difficulties please email admin@fortismere.org.uk. In the email it would be really helpful if you outline the problems you are having, has your logon email failed to arrive? Do you have the email but it isn't working? We've only had SIMS for seven weeks so we can expect some teething problems but it is vitally important that you have access to all the details and information you need about your child or children, so please continue to inform us.

Year groups have begun their sessions with [Stand Up!](#), an interfaith organisation that educates students on Antisemitism and Islamophobia. Y7 and Y8 have had their sessions this week with Y9-11 to follow. The students have been extremely engaged and enjoy the workshops and the opportunity to safely discuss their concerns and sometimes, fears. We are delighted to be able to offer this to our students and will continue to gather feedback.

In between rain showers it has been business as usual. Our pastoral focus on attendance to school and punctuality has continued to gather momentum. You will have seen the attendance parentmail from Ms Sullivan reminding families that we need our students in school every day. We know that illness and some term time religious observance will impact but it is very important that days out of school are kept to a minimum. In addition, lateness to lessons equals lost learning time. Students late to school are missing part of their first lesson. Moving slowly from lesson to lesson will also mean missing the vital introduction to the lesson from the teacher and disrupts the learning of others. We have written about this before to our families and we have begun to see an improvement. However, if we are to return to (or even better, exceed!) our pre-Covid attendance, we will all have to work together to ensure our students are in school, learning.

According to the Met Office, apart from a damp start to Saturday, the weather is looking much brighter. We hope that while global events continue to challenge and saddened all of us, we can all enjoy weekends with our families!

School Fireworks Event

Fortismere Fireworks Move to Thursday 9th November

We were disappointed that our fireworks event couldn't go ahead as planned last night but we're really pleased that we have been able to reschedule it to next week on **Thursday 9th November 5pm-9pm**.

If you already have a ticket it's still valid for the new date and if you hadn't got round to buying a ticket, well now you have an extra opportunity to do so! [use this link here to buy tickets](#). And you can still pay at the gate on the night.

LINC Department Notices

Meet the Team

Continuing our weekly meet the team entry - let me introduce **Alex Dutton, SEND Manager** at Fortismere and long time member of the LINC Team.....



Why did you want to work in the LINC department?

When my children started primary school (nearly 20 years ago!) like a lot of mums, I volunteered to work in their school and read stories to the Year 2 children. There I met 'Louis', a child with autism and we instantly clicked. Louis taught me so much about the spectrum of special needs, a world that I have found to be an ever evolving matrix of diagnoses. Not long after starting I was asked to be his learning support assistant and I stayed by his side until it was time to say goodbye four years later when he left for secondary school. That was also the time when my family and I decided to start a new adventure and moved to London - my daughter started secondary school and I started at Fortismere as a teaching assistant in the LINC department. Little did I know that this decision would lead me to completing two degrees in special needs and a commitment to training, educating and mentoring new support staff every year.

What's the best thing about your job in LINC?

I think it is learning from the students themselves about how to support their needs, by listening to how they see the world around them.

What would you like to share with the school community this week?

I want to talk about ADHD in girls (who knew it shows so differently than in boys?) and **my chosen superpower is ADHD girl power!**

Greta Gerwig, screenwriter, actress and director of blockbuster film Barbie, definitely has ADHD girl power. Little is known about how to support girls with ADHD tendencies as they show very different signs to boys. Greta was diagnosed with ADHD as an adult and speaks in a recent Observer interview ([9 July 2023](#)) *"as a kid, my mum was like 'Let's sign her up for every activity. Let's tire her out.' I've always had a tremendous amount of enthusiasm. I was just interested in, like, everything. I had a really active imagination. I had a lot of really deep feelings. I was emotional."*



According to the [Child Mind Institute](#), ADHD in girls is often referred to as a 'hidden disorder' as most have what is called the 'inattentive' type which means they have problems focussing, but are not hyperactive or impulsive. However, even those girls like Greta who are hyperactive or impulsive have less obvious symptoms than boys. See below for the three most common hidden signs and recommendations for how to support your daughter to enable her to fulfil her dreams, whatever they may be.

ADHD in Girls - Hidden Signs

The top three hidden signs to look out for with suggestions for what you can do and most importantly - **Make space for your child to talk about how she's feeling and seek help from a professional if necessary.**

Hidden signs	What to do
Day dreaming - however this can lead to cultivating creativity and a great imagination	You can teach them how to be self aware, how to self monitor and how to do mindful breathing. See this link for more information
Heightened sensitivity and emotions - can lead to a struggle to maintain friendships and potentially low esteem	Encourage them to find activities, clubs or social groups where they feel comfortable and accepted
Forgetfulness and lack of organisation -	Help them to establish a routine and introduce them to the world of alarms and lots of sticky notes!

Fortismind

Supporting Mental Health At Fortismere with The Mental Health Champion

With the help of the Mental Health Ambassadors in Years 7-11 and the Mental Health Leaders in Years 12-13, I would like to welcome you to **Fortismind** - a new section in the weekly Newsletter, where we will talk about all things Mental Health. Our aim is to get students and parents thinking and talking about their mental health and to promote positive ways to look after your mind as well as providing some practical solutions for when things are not going so well. Please read through **Fortismind** with your child every week and use it as a springboard to open up conversations - you don't always know when someone is struggling and just talking about a worry can be half of the battle.

In the coming weeks, we will share with you: Top Tips for looking after your mental health; Feature pieces written by the Y12/13 Mental Health Leaders; Links to films which encourage discussion about mental health and Resources and signposting for when you are struggling.

I hope that you will enjoy reading this section as much as we have enjoyed putting it together. We'd love to know what you think of it so please let me have any feedback. Thank you

Ms E Jones

Year 7 Notices

Halloween Fun for Year 7

It was great to see such a fantastic turnout of Year 7s looking wonderful in ghoulish costumes and monstrous make-up at Monday night's Halloween Disco. There were competitions, pizza slices, a photo booth and of course lots of dancing - thank you to our brilliant Year 12 DJs. A big thank you also to the teachers, Year 7 parents, Year 12 students and House Ambassadors who all helped to make the Halloween Disco such a great success.



English Department News

Celebrating Black History Month with Kimba Bush

The English department celebrated Black History Month by inviting the poet Kimba Bush to Fortismere. Below you can read some feedback on the visit from a Year 9 student, Samuel:

Recently in Year 9, the poet Kimba came to Fortismere as part of Black History month, where he talked about important and inspirational black people that very few people had heard of, along with the argument about how African history is more important than Black history. On top of this, he also read us some of his poetry through telling us the stories of the previously mentioned people, and another brief poem at the end.

Personally, I was incredibly impressed by Kimba, and the use of rhythm in his poetry to drag the audience in and around the poem, something which definitely isn't used as much as it should be. Alongside this, Kimba is also amazing at telling stories through his poems, something which, from my experience, is very hard to pull off without your poem just becoming prose. Overall, I'd give this poet visit a 10/10 for how the poet (Kimba) engaged with us, along with the quality of his poetry. Much approved.



Library News

Top Tips to Keep Your Children Reading



Top Tip 6: Read yourself! If you try to foster that kind of environment where reading is the norm, hopefully your children will buy into it.

Library Vacancy

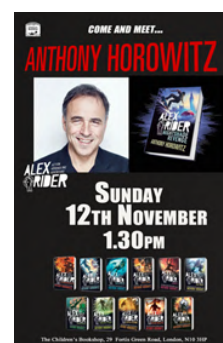
Do you know of anyone who'd be interested in working with us? We've got a part time job in our busy buzzy library! Previous library experience is not essential, just a real passion for books (especially those for children and Young Adults) and a desire to spread that passion throughout the Fortismere family. Details and an application form are on the school website - [see this page](#)



Dates for Your Diary

It's well worth popping in to Muswell Hill Children's Bookshop to start getting personalised Christmas gifts from a couple of our favourite authors.

Michael Rosen on Saturday 11th November at 11.00am and Anthony Horowitz on Sunday 12th November at 1.30pm



Recommended Reads of the Week

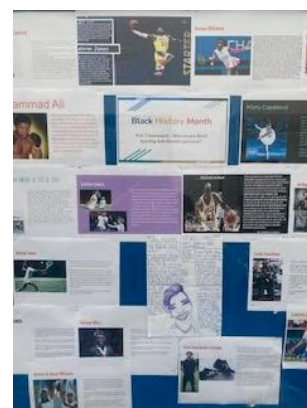
The British Legion's red poppies are symbols of both remembrance and a hope for a peaceful future. They are on sale in the library, together with enamel pins, poppy reflectors and poppy hair ties.



PE & Sports News

Black History Month Sporting Role Models

Thank you to all the Year 7 students who submitted posters for our Black History Month project. PE department staff were really impressed with all the wonderful designs that showed students' sporting role models and icons. A selection of the posters are on display in the Sports Hall - we really wanted to put them all up but we ran out of space, so sorry if yours isn't there.



Inter College Results So Far...

Turing	740
Wollstonecraft	740
Keats	700
Selvon	680
Franklin	440

Haringey Football Week Continued.....

More great performances from Fortismere students during the Haringey Football Week. There was lots of great talent, team work and positive sporting attitude on display.

Year 9 Girls 3rd	Year 9 Boys 8th
Year 10 Girls 1st	Year 10 Boys 1st
Year 11 Girls 3rd	Year 11 Boys



Upcoming Fixtures

Monday 6th November	Year 7 & Year 9 Netball v Heartlands Away
Wednesday 8th November	Year 7 & Year 9 Netball v Greig City Away 1st XI v St Thomas More Home Year 10 Football v Park View Academy Away

Please Help Breast Cancer Now

October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month so as we move into November can I please ask you one more time to help **Breast Cancer Now**. Fortismere supports the work of this wonderful charity and you can donate quickly and securely online on the [Just Giving page here](#) Thank you so much for your support.

Ms Vangucci

Safeguarding at Fortismere

Safeguarding Contacts

If you wish to speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Ms Sullivan) about any safeguarding matters or concerns please email safetalk@fortismere.org.uk alternatively contact your child's Tutor or Head of Year: